



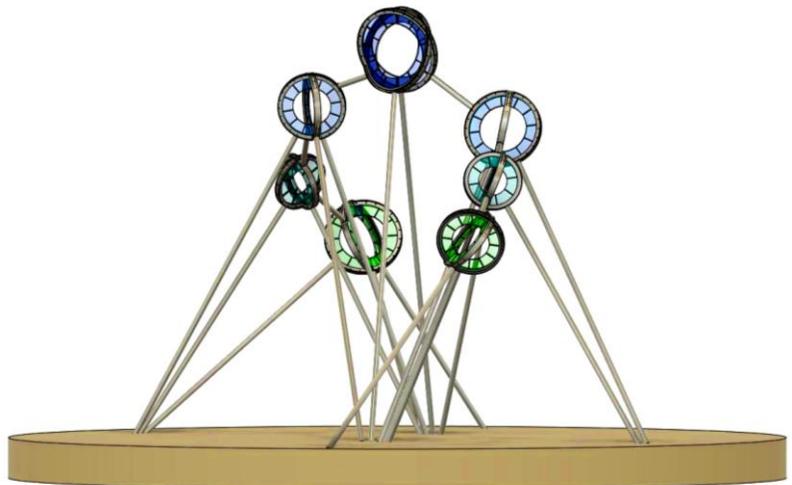
CELEBRATING MUSKEGON

CELEBRATING MUSKEGON, the latest public art project of the **MuskegonCity Public Art Initiative**, is an original sculpture by John Littleton and Kate Vogel. It has been created as a tribute to the character and resiliency of the people and communities of Muskegon.

The lakes, rivers and rich natural resources of this community are the bedrock of who we are, virtual magnets over the centuries that have attracted a rich diversity of people who have contributed their hearts, talents, and treasure to make this community strong. The fortunes of West Michigan and Muskegon have been tied to our surrounding lakes and rivers, our land and natural resources, and the people attracted to these waters since the beginning of its history.

Elevated by a strong framework of stainless steel, the circular steel bands enclosing rich colors of thick hand-cast glass represent the strength of Muskegon's communities, ambitions, and dreams. Intertwining with each other, these circular bands also represent the energy of the many individuals who have come together over the history of our community to make Muskegon what it is today.

The beautiful colors of cast glass within the bands of steel symbolize the remarkable natural attributes and resources that envelope Muskegon: the rich greens for our trees, parks and our plentiful natural resources surrounding us; and the vibrant blues for the remarkable open waters, lakes and rivers that are integral to the very character of this community.





The sculpture - 22-feet high by 30-foot in diameter - will be installed in the new roundabout at Lakeshore and Beach Street, completed just this past spring as the new gateway to Pere Marquette Park, the City's premier and award-winning Lake Michigan beach. The sculpture will be lit from within, each band of glass containing programmable LED lights that will glow from dusk to dawn.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

John Littleton and Kate Vogel are American studio glass artists who have worked collaboratively since 1979. John and Kate's life together as artists began shortly after they met at the University of Wisconsin Madison in the late 1970s where they both received their undergraduate degrees.

Since 1979, John and Kate have lived in the mountains of North Carolina where they began their collaboration on blown and cast glass in the studio of John's father, Harvey Littleton, who is widely regarded as the father of the Studio Glass Movement. Harvey Littleton introduced glass as a medium for the studio artist as early as 1962; subsequently he instituted the first hot glass program at an American university.



The art of the Littleton-Vogel alliance has taken many directions over the years, and at the core of it all is their collaboration and shared lives. Their creations communicate and record their interrelationship with the world, creating powerful works from whimsical to introspective.

John and Kate have taught casting and blowing at Penland School of Crafts and are asked regularly to present at art museums and universities. Their work is in public and private collections in the United States, Europe, and Japan, including institutions such as the Art in Embassies Program; The Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY; the White House Collection at The Clinton Library in Little Rock, AR; High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA; the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC; and the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI.

GREAT NEWS! The City of Muskegon has been accepted to participate in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) **Public Spaces Community Places** program. Our fundraising goal for this beautiful sculpture through this program is \$50,000. **If we reach that goal, we will be eligible for a matching, dollar for dollar, grant of \$50,000 from the MEDC.** Your gift will have double the impact IF we reach our goal!

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT TODAY! You can support this remarkable new public art installation by donating online at www.patronicity.com/mkg1 or by mailing a check for the **CELEBRATING MUSKEGON FUND**, City of Muskegon, 933 Terrace St, Muskegon MI 49440 by **July 30, 2020.**

In appreciation, all donors at \$1,000 and above will be listed on signage at the Roundabout site.